

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Medical Information from Sofia

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REFERENCES

1. The central preventative medicine department, which controls all district stations, is located at No. 60 Stamboliyski Boulevard in Sofia. Each district (okoliya) station has the following sections:

- a. Food Hygiene (Khranitelna Khigiena);
- b. Public Hygiene (Zhilishno Komunalna Khigiena; Residential Communal Hygiene); and
- c. School Hygiene (Uchilishna Khigiena).

Hospitals and Institutes

2. The Oblastna Bolnitsa (district hospital), which is located on Dimitŭr Blagoev Square, has 200 beds and four departments: internal diseases, surgery, pediatrics, and X-ray.
3. The Okružhna Bolnitsa (okrŭg hospital), located at No. 288 Slivnitsa Boulevard, has 300 beds and sections for internal diseases, venereal diseases, contagious diseases, ear, nose, and throat, X-ray, and a maternity ward. This hospital has a branch near the central railroad station with departments for pediatrics, surgery, and nervous diseases.
4. The Red Cross Hospital (Cherven Krŭst Bolnitsa) or Emergency Hospital (Speshna Bolnitsa), which is located on Totleben Boulevard 500 to 1,000 meters from the Aleksandrovska Hospital (University Hospital), is used for emergency cases. It has 200 beds. Prior to May 1952, the Central Blood Bank in Sofia was located at this hospital. There were sufficient numbers of blood donors, because 16 to 18 leva (old currency) were paid for each gram of blood donated.
5. Hospital No. 5 or 6 (formerly Ruski Cherven Krŭst; Russian Red Cross), located on Iskŭr Street, has 80 beds. Until August 1952, it had only a contagious diseases department.

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6. Rodilen Dom No. 1 (sic, probably Maichin Dom; Maternity Home) is located on Sheynovo Street. Rodilen Dom No. 2, with 100 beds, is located in the Bulina Livada Quarter.
7. The Institute for Postgraduate Medical Specialization (ISUL, Institut za Spetsializatsiya i Usuvurshenstvuvane na Lekarite Kadri) is located in the building of the former Rabotnicheska Bolnitsa (Workers' Hospital). Physicians who have received "special mention" are admitted for a period of study from one to one and one-half years upon the recommendation of their superiors.
8. There are 26 dispensaries for ambulatory treatment in Sofia, three to five in each city district.. In addition there are six clinics, some of them including small hospitals, which administer calmette tests (sic) and give treatment to tubercular patients.
9. The RIEM (sic) central organization for medical research in Sofia, which works mainly on the production of sera, is located on General Zaimov Street. One of its departments produces sera for veterinary purposes. The Institute for Workers' Health (Institut za Trudova Khigiena) is located on the second or third floor of the RIEM building.

Drugs

10. Bulgaria has the following pharmaceutical factories:
 - a. Galenus Factory;
 - b. The Farmaprom Factory; and
 - c. A small factory in the Khadzhi Dimitur Quarter of Sofia, which manufactures liver extract.
11. Only the simpler drugs are made in Bulgaria; most of the raw materials are imported. PAS (Para Amino Salicylate), sulpha, and antibiotics are imported from the USSR and are available only by prescription. There is an index of drugs that are freely available.
12. The purchase of penicillin requires a prescription signed by two doctors. Streptomycin is used only in hospitals. Aureomycin is used experimentally at the University Hospital.

Schools

13. The Vŭlko Chervenkov Medical Academy in Sofia admitted 3,000 students in 1944, 1,000 students in 1945, and 800 students in 1946. Since then the number has dwindled, and now only 250 to 300 students are admitted annually. Three hundred students were graduated in 1952, as compared with 500 in 1950.
14. Since 1947 all students at the Academy must attend military medical training. Throughout their studies they attend lectures given by senior Army officers, and during the summer vacations they have six weeks of field training. Medical students who have already completed their military service must also attend these courses.

1. Comment: The Sofia Telephone Directory (1952) lists the Institut za Narodno Zdravie (Institute of Public Health), Institut za Trudova Khigiena (Institute for Workers' Health), and Institut Farmatsievticheski, otdel kontrolni analizi (Pharmaceutical Institute, analysis control department) all at No. 26, General Vl. Zaimov Street in Sofia.

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